

VZCZCXRO9303
OO RUEHDU RUEHMR RUEHPA RUEHRN RUEHTRO
DE RUEHFR #0599 0911656
ZNY CCCCC ZZH
O 311656Z MAR 08
FM AMEMBASSY PARIS
TO RUEHC/SECSTATE WASHDC IMMEDIATE 2424
INFO RUEHZO/AFRICAN UNION COLLECTIVE
RHMCSUU/CJTF HOA
RUEAIIA/CIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEFDIA/DIA WASHINGTON DC
RHEHNSC/NSC WASHINGTON DC
RHHMUNA/HQ USPACOM HONOLULU HI

C O N F I D E N T I A L PARIS 000599

SIPDIS

SIPDIS

E.O. 12958: DECL: 03/31/2018
TAGS: [PGOV](#) [PREL](#) [MOPS](#) [KDEM](#) [PHUM](#) [PINR](#) [CN](#) [FR](#)
SUBJECT: COMOROS/France: MARCH 31 UPDATE ON BACAR'S
SITUATION

REF: A. ANTANANARIVO 242

[1](#)B. PARIS 589

Classified By: Political-Minister Counselor Josiah Rosenblatt, 1.4 (b/d
) .

[1](#)1. (C) MFA Comoros desk officer Jacques Biau on March 31 provided an update on former Anjouan leader Col. Bacar. Biau reported that Bacar and his 22-member entourage were in French custody at an airbase in Reunion. Biau said that there were three separate but related legal proceedings in progress: (1) Bacar's request for political asylum; (2) the request for extradition from the Union of the Comoros; and (3) a GOF investigation concerning the Bacar party's illegal entry into French territory, including the fact that the group was armed when it arrived in Mayotte, itself an offense. Biau said the case was becomingly increasingly complex because of the three issues and the different set of GOF agencies and procedures involved in each. Although we were told on March 28 (ref B) that the case would be processed on an expedited basis and that a ruling might be issued "within days," Biau cautioned that resolving this matter would "take awhile" and he refrained from predicting when a ruling would be made.

[1](#)2. (C) Biau confirmed that there was no formal extradition treaty between France and the Comoros, but he said that that would not be an obstacle should the GOF decide to expel Bacar and his associates. One of the factors the GOF would consider, however, was the existence of the death penalty in the Comoros, which Biau said could affect any decision to extradite him. Biau said he would keep us informed, and he thanked the USG for its statement supporting the military operation that led to Bacar's ouster.

Please visit Paris' Classified Website at:
<http://www.state.sgov.gov/p/eur/paris/index.cfm>

PEKALA